

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 JIDDA 09592 170857Z

13

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 EB-07 RSC-01 /015 W

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R 170830Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9592

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JIDDA 9592

E.O.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, SA

SUBJ: PRODUCT OPPORTUNITY: COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT

REF : STATE 271444

1. WE ARE TOLD THAT PROJECT HAS BEEN SHELVED. EXPLANATION IS THAT DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS LAST SUMMER TOLD THE LOCAL PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR THAT RATHER THAN A TRAPOSCATTER SYSTEM, A PORTABLE SATELLITE GROUND STATION COULD BE PROVIDED AT ABHA. (TWO SUCH STATIONS ARE CURRENTLY PROVIDING INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS FOR RIYADH AND JIDDA PENDING COMPLETION OF THE TWO FULL-FLEDGED GROUND STATIONS AT THOSE CITIES. ONCE THE PERMANENT STATIONS ARE IN OPERATION, THE PORTABLE EQUIPMENT WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR REGIONAL SITES.)

2. BETA COMPANY, LOCAL FIRM WHICH WAS COMPETING FOR THE TROPO-SCATTER PROJECT, CLAIMS THAT USE OF A SATELLITE GROUND STATION AT ABHA IS IMPRACTICAL ON TECHNICAL GROUNDS DUE TO POOR ATMOSPHERIC CONDITIONS, BUT THAT THE GOVERNOR OF ASIR (ABHA) HAS BECOME FASCINATED BY THE SATELLITE STATION AND IS NO LONGER WILLING TO ACCEPT THE TROPOSCATTER SYSTEM. BETA OF COURSE HAS A VESTED INTEREST, AND WE DO NOT SEE HOW TROPO-SCATTER COULD GIVE BETTER RESULTS THAN SATELLITE REGARDLESS OF CONDITIONS; HOWEVER, END RESULT IN ANY EVENT IS THAT TROPO-SCATTER PROJECT IS OUT FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.
AKINS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974JIDDA09592
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740366-0608
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741230/aaaaazbv.tel
Line Count: 51
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION COME
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 1
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 74 STATE 271444
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 AUG 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <19 MAR 2003 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRODUCT OPPORTUNITY: COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT
TAGS: BEXP, SA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005